



Calvary Christian School

Teaching the Whole Child the Whole Truth

Discovery School English Summer Reading and Writing Assignment: “Quest” Plot Pattern

11th graders: *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot

ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS (READ THESE CAREFULLY!):

- Read through the explanations below of *plot* and *plot patterns*.
- Read the questions you will need to answer on page 3
- Read the novel, looking closely for and marking passages in the text that may help you answer the questions.
- Answer all 5 questions on page 3 in paragraph form. (Each question should be answered in a full paragraph. Five questions, five paragraphs should be turned in).
- Assignment formatting: typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 font, MLA heading (see below for example). Don't forget to check spelling and grammar!
- Turn in all work by August 19, 2022 on Turnitin.com (sign in will be given in your syllabus on the first day of school).
- If you have any questions or concerns, contact Mrs. Newman marynewman@calvaryknights.com.

What is Plot?

There are six main elements in a plot:

1. The **EXPOSITION** or introduction.
 - Beginning of the story. Includes background information.
 - Main characters are introduced.
 - Setting (time and place) is established.
2. The **INCITING INCIDENT!**
 - Every story has a MAIN PROBLEM. The inciting incident is the event that introduces the main problem into the story.
 - It signals the end of the exposition and the beginning of the rising action.
3. The **RISING ACTION.**
 - The main problem of the story is developed.
 - This is usually the longest part of the story.
 - Many events take place which eventually lead to a point of high tension. We are building to a crisis!

4. The **CLIMAX!**
 - The main problem reaches a turning point!
 - The moment of highest interest!
 - The moment of highest emotion!
 - What will happen next?!?!
5. The **FALLING ACTION.**
 - Things start to wind down.
 - The main problem starts to be resolved.
6. The **RESOLUTION** or conclusion.
 - The end of the story.
 - The main problem has been resolved.

What are the Basic Plot Patterns ?

In literary theory, some critics have identified seven basic plot patterns into which most stories fit. The seven basic plot patterns are Rags to Riches, Voyage and Return, Rebirth, Comedy, Tragedy, Overcoming the Monster, and Quest. The Discovery Program students will be exploring the Quest pattern.

What is the Quest Plot Pattern?

In the quest pattern, the protagonist and companions set out to acquire an important object or to get to a location. The quest is a search for a place, item, or person that requires the protagonist to leave home and find it. They face temptations and other obstacles along the way.

The Quest Plot Structure

1. The Call:

This section gives the protagonist a mission to accomplish.

2. The Journey:

This is the part where the protagonist searches for the item. The protagonist will encounter obstacles, temptations, and tests that must be overcome.

3. The Arrival and Frustration:

The protagonist is so close, but there are still obstacles to get through before completing the quest.

4. The Final Ordeal:

This is the final test for the protagonist.

5. The Goal:

The protagonist has completed the quest and receives the prize.

Works Cited

- Booker, Christopher. *The Seven Basic Plots: Why We Tell Stories*. Bloomsbury Continuum, 2016.
- Herriot, James. *All Creatures Great and Small*. St. Martin's Press, 1988.
- Horowitz, Anthony. *Stormbreaker*. Philomel Books, 2001.

Be reminded that our school's policy regarding plagiarism will be administered and applied to this and all other essay assignments throughout the year.

Questions to Answer About the Text

1. Identify the main problem in the story. What is the event that introduces this problem (inciting incident)? What are some situations that complicate the problem even more (rising action)? What is the turning point or moment of highest tension in the story (climax)? How is the main problem resolved? Use specific examples with page numbers.
2. Write a paragraph about the main character. What is he like (looks, personality)? Use specific examples from the text. Find one thing that he *says* and one thing that he *does* that you think are important. What do these things tell you about him? Be specific. Use examples from the text with page numbers.
3. Explain how this story fits the quest plot pattern. Be thorough and specific in your explanation. Use specific examples with page numbers.
4. Make a connection between this story and a story or character you have read about in the Bible. Explain the connection.
5. Identify a message the author of the book might be conveying. Does this message line up with a biblical worldview? Or does it contradict what Scripture teaches? Use specific verses to explain.

MLA Heading Sample

Drake 1

Mary Drake

Mrs. Newman

DS English

9 August 2019

(Title of the Book based on first page information) Questions and Answers

